



CITY AND COUNTY OF THE CITY OF EXETER.

Education Committee.

Annual Report

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

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OF EXETER, 1927.



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SCHOOL MEDICAL STAFF.

School Medical Officer.

PERCY H. STIRK, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Lond.

School Medical Inspector.

CHARLES MATHEW, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.S.A.

Part Time.

J. A. W. PEREIRA GRAY, M.D., Brux., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Lond.,

Operative treatment for Tonsils and Adenoids.

School Dental Surgeon.

GEORGE VALENTINE SMALLWOOD, L.D.S., Eng.

School Nurses.

MISS CAROLINE ANNIE KNUCKEY.

MISS BEATRICE MARY KNUCKEY.

MISS SUSAN LOUISA DAWKINS, resigned on 30th April,
1927.

MISS MAUD WALTERS.

MISS FRANCES ENA WARD.

MISS ELSIE M. HOYLES, joined on 9th May, 1927.

Clerks.

CHAS. F. HAYES. R. H. WELLS.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE
CITY AND COUNTY OF THE CITY
OF EXETER, 1927.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

I have the honour to submit my Report upon the Medical Inspection of School Children for the year 1927.

1.—STAFF.

Particulars of the Staff are given Page 3.

2.—CO-ORDINATION.

As the School Medical Officer, who is also Medical Officer of Health and Infant and Child Welfare, is engaged in clinical as well as administrative duties, there is no difficulty in co-ordinating the work of the different Departments.

3.—SPECIAL ENQUIRY.

When I commenced School Medical Inspections I took up as a special subject of investigation, and one which appeared to me, when I had sufficient numbers, would probably give interesting results—the association of physical defects with school backwardness. My investigations have been continued by my assistants and we have now examined 800 backward children, a backward child being regarded as one, three or more standards below the normal child of his or her age, mentally deficient children being excluded. I find that 66.4 per cent. have physical defects which account for their backward condition.

In more than a quarter, 25.7 per cent. of these the cause was connected with diseased or defective conditions of the ears or nose and throat leading to partial deafness, and 12.7 per cent. suffered from defective vision. With the attention which is now given to these defects and the treatment which is provided for their remedy by the Education Committee, I confidently expect that there will be a considerable reduction in the number of backward children.

4.—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Infectious diseases have interfered very considerably during the past year with school attendance. While the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases, except chicken pox, has been slight. The so-called minor affections have been epidemic, no less than 1,415 children were excluded for various periods, either as actual sufferers or contacts with infectious diseases. The known cases of these diseases were as follows:—

Measles 369, Whooping Cough 170, Chicken Pox 175, Impetigo (an infectious skin disease) 298, and Ringworm 140.

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

5.—MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The arrangements and methods adopted for the Medical Inspection of the children have been in all respects similar to those described in previous Reports. The children examined include the Entrants, Leavers, and Intermediate Group (aged 8), other Routine, Special Cases, and Re-inspection of Defective Children, the numbers examined being set forth on Table I.

6.—Following Up.

For this purpose the City is divided into convenient areas, each School Nurse having charge of her own District, and during the year the School Nurses made 5,944 home visits in this connection.

7.—MEDICAL TREATMENT.

(a) **Uncleanliness** (see Table IV., Group IV.)

I have to report a steady improvement in the condition of children attending the Elementary Schools in the matter of

cleanliness. This has been continuous since the institution of school medical work. At present the School Nurses make visits to the schools, particularly during the week following re-opening after holidays. During the year the School Nurses paid 426 visits to schools in this connection, the actual number of children examined being 20,709. Of this number 344 were unsatisfactory, and these were cleansed satisfactorily by their parents after notice was given.

No legal proceedings were taken against parents under the Education Act, 1921, Section 47.

(b) **Tuberculosis.**

Fifteen children have been referred by the School Medical Inspector to the Tuberculosis Dispensary for prolonged observation by the Tuberculosis Officer, and of these 4 were found to be tubercular, 2 were still under the observation at the end of the year, and 9 were not tubercular.

(c) **Ringworm.**

During the year 7 cases were treated by X-Rays.

123 cases were treated at the Ringworm School Treatment Clinic by the School Nurses, 44 being ringworm of the scalp and 79 ringworm of the body, and the number of visits paid to the Clinic for treatment of this disease was 1,636.

102 were cured and 21 remained under treatment at the end of the year.

(d) **Impetigo.**

298 cases of this disease were treated at the Clinic, making 1854 attendances, and all were cured.

(e) **Scabies.**

4 families affected. 7 cases treated at Clinic, and 1 case treated privately.

(f) **Vision.**

282 children received advice under the arrangements made by the Local Education Authority for Error of Refraction

(including squint) and 47 children received advice privately, an increase of 28 cases on last year.

2 children received In-Patient Treatment, one operation for squint and one for treatment for squint, and 19 children received Out-Patient Treatment for Eye Disease in addition to those treated at the School Clinic.

See Table IV., Group II.

(g) **Tonsils and Adenoids.**

99 children received operative treatment under the arrangements made by the Local Education Authority, an increase of ~~36~~ cases on last year.

See Table IV., Group III.

(h) **Dental Treatment.**

The Report of the School Dental Surgeon on this work is attached. See Table IV., Group IV.

(i) **Minor Ailments.**

Treatment for these are given at the School Clinic, particulars appear on page 18—Table IV., Group I.

8.—OPEN AIR SCHOOLS.

At present we have no Open Air Schools, although in suitable weather school playgrounds are largely used for the holding of classes. I consider that a day open air school would be one of the most useful aids we could have for the prevention of disease, and would improve the physical and mental health of many of the children.

See Table III., Page 15.—116 delicate children are attending the Public Elementary Schools, who would doubtless do much better in an Open Air School.

9.—SWIMMING INSTRUCTION.

The arrangements whereby Elementary School Children are regularly taught swimming at the Corporation Baths continue, and during the year 1,128 children have received instruction

in swimming during the summer session, 1927. 606 lessons had been given with a total of 9,897 individual attendances. Of the pupils who attended, 882 were beginners and 218 of these were able to swim at least 25 yards by the end of the session. Certificates had been gained as follows :—218 for 25 yards, 106 for 50 yards, and 70 for 100 yards.

Medical inspection of those wishing to compete in the Annual Swimming Gala, 224 examined, and in 6 of these cases competition was not advised.

10.—EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

Under the Bye-Laws in force 187 medical certificates were issued and 139 children were re-examined for continuation of employment, and in four cases medical certificates were refused owing to children requiring medical treatment.

11.—SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARS, AND STUDENT TEACHERS.

45 were examined and passed, subject in 3 cases to having defects remedied.

12.—CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS AND OTHERS.

65 per cent. of the parents were present in the schools at the examination, and, generally speaking, these parents showed every desire to co-operate with the School Medical Officer for the benefit of their children.

My thanks are due to the Secretary for Education, Head Teachers, School Attendance Officers, and various voluntary agencies, for co-operating with my department and furthering the work of Medical Inspection and Treatment.

13.—FEATURE OF THIS YEAR'S REPORT.

The most encouraging feature of this year's report is the continued increase in the numbers of children whose parents have availed themselves of the Authority's schemes for obtaining

treatment. This is apparent in regard to enlarged tonsils and adenoids (that frequent source of deafness), in connection of errors of refraction and in remedy of dental defects and clearly shews that the continuous efforts on the part of my department to educate the public in the far reaching effects of these conditions is beginning to bear fruit, and must lead eventually to the elementary school children obtaining a fuller benefit from the instruction given in the schools, than in the past.

14.—STATISTICS.

Relating to the work of medical inspection of Elementary Schools as required by the Board of Education, are attached to the Report.

15.—MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Secondary and Junior Technical Schools.

The particulars of the School Medical Inspection of two Secondary Schools and Junior Technical School appears at the end of this Report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. H. STIRK,

School Medical Officer.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS,
1927.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, 1927.

TABLE I.

Return of Medical Inspections 1st January to 31st December, 1927.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Code Group Inspections.

Entrants	....	....	....	....	1058
Intermediates	597
Leavers	744
					<hr/>
Total	2399
					<hr/>

Number of other Routine Inspections	1
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B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	2802
Number of Re-inspections	2396
			<hr/>
Total	....	....	5198

TABLE II.

A. Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the Year ended 31st December, 1927.

Defect or Disease.	Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
	No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>Malnutrition</i>		4		
<i>Uncleanliness—</i>				
Head	3			
Body				
<i>Skin—</i>				
Ringworm—Head			52	
Body			85	1
Scabies			8	
Impetigo	6		292	7
Other Diseases (Non-Tubercular)	1		38	28
<i>Eye—</i>				
Blepharitis	1		4	
Conjunctivitis			14	
Keratitis			2	
Corneal Ulcer				
Corneal Opacities				
Defective Vision	97	6	246	48
Squint	8	9	14	6
Other Conditions		2	25	4
<i>Ear—</i>				
Defective Hearing	4	10	7	7
Otitis Media		3		
Other Ear Diseases	15	4	30	2
<i>Nose and Throat—</i>				
Enlarged Tonsils	4		6	
Adenoids	10		13	3
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	92	6	91	17
Other Conditions	1	221	11	25
<i>Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tubercular)</i>	1	29	8	6
<i>Defective Speech</i>		14		
<i>Teeth—Dental Diseases</i>		199		331

TABLE II.—continued.

Defect or Disease.	Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
	No of Defects.		No of Defects.	
	Requiring treatment. (2)	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment. (3)	Requiring treatment. (4)	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment. (5)
<i>Heart and Circulation—</i>				
Heart Disease—Organic		7		
Functional!		7		
Anaemia		3		5
<i>Lungs—</i>				3
Bronchitis		5		1
Other Non-Tubercular Diseases—		4	1	1
<i>Tuberculosis—</i>				
Pulmonary—Definite				
Suspected		9	1	15
Non-Pulmonary—Glands				
Spine				
Hip				
Other Bones & Joints				
Skin				
Other Forms				
<i>Nervous System—</i>				
Epilepsy	1		2	
Chorea	1	1	9	1
Other Conditions		2	5	2
<i>Deformities—</i>				
Rickets		1	1	
Spinal Curvature		9		
Other Forms	5	13	4	9
<i>Other Defects and Diseases—</i>	23	34	2	48

B. Number of *individual children* found at *Routine Medical Inspection to Require Treatment* (excluding uncleanliness and Dental Diseases.

Group. (1)	Number of Children.		Percentage of Children found to require treatment. (4)
	Inspected (2)	Found to re- quire treatment. (3)	
<i>Code Group :</i>			
Entrants	1058	105	9.9
Intermediate	597	78	13.06
Leavers	744	86	11.5
Total (code groups)	2399	269	11.2
Other Routine Inspections	1	—	—

Classification of Diseases other than those classified in Table IV.
Group I. showing how treated.

Disease, &c.	Cured Dispensary.	Operation Hospital.	Cured Hospital.	Cured Private Doctor.	Remarks.
Fits and Petit Mal.	3		1		
Hernia		4			
Chorea	3		4		
Debility	3			4	
Goitre	2			2	
Glands (Non-	5	1	5	1	
Lungs) Tubercular	1			3	
Phimosis		2		1	
Deformities			2		

Table III.—Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind (including partially blind)	(i) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution	2	4	6
	(ii) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution			
Deaf (including deaf and dumb and partially deaf).	(i) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution	2	2	4
	(ii) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially deaf.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution		1	1
Mentally Defective.	Feebleminded (cases not notifiable to the Local Control Authority).	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution	9	10	19
	Notified to the Local Control Authority <i>during the year</i> .	Feebleminded Imbeciles Idiots		1 1	1 1
Epileptics.	Suffering from severe epilepsy.	Attending Certified Special Schools for Epileptics ... In Institutions other than Certified Special Schools ... Attending Public Elementary Schools At no School or Institution		3	3

TABLE III.—continued.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Epileptics. — <i>contd.</i>	Suffering from epilepsy which is not severe.	Attending Public Elementary Schools At no School or Institution ...	1	2	3
	Infectious pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board At other Institutions At no School or Institution ... Under private doctor			
Physically Defective.	Non-infectious but active pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board At Certified Residential Open Air Schools At Certified Day Open Air Schools At Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution ...	10 1 2	11 1	21 2 2
	Delicate Children (<i>e.g.</i> , pre - or latent tuberculosis, malnutrition, debility, anaemia, etc.)	At Certified Residential Open Air Schools At Certified Day Open Air Schools At Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution ...	63 1	53 1	116 2
	Active non - pulmonary tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Hospital Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board At Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution ...	2		2
	Crippled Children (other than those with active tuberculosis disease), <i>e.g.</i> , children suffering from paralysis, etc., and including those with severe heart disease.	At Certified Hospital Schools At Certified Residential Cripple Schools At Certified Day Cripple Schools At Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution ...	1 29		1 48

**TABLE IV.—Return of Defects Treated during the Year ended
31st December, 1927.**

Treatment Table.

Group I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Group V.)

Disease or Defect. (1)	Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Otherwise. (3)	Total. (4)
<i>Skin—</i>			
Ringworm Scalp	51	4	55
Ringworm Body	79	6	85
Scabies	7	1	8
Impetigo	287	11	298
Other Skin Disease	10	8	18
<i>Minor Eye Defects—</i> (External and other, but excluding cases failing in Group II.)	22	2	24
<i>Minor Ear Defects</i>	26	20	46
<i>Miscellaneous</i>			
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	18	3	21
Total	500	55	555

*Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated
as Minor Ailments—Group I.)*

Defect or Disease. (1)	Number of Defects dealt with.			
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Submitted to refraction by private prac- titioner or at hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (3)	Otherwise. (4)	Total. (5)
Errors of Refraction (in- cluding Squint) ...	282	9	38	329
Other Defects or Disease of the Eyes	22			22
Total	304	9	38	351

Total number of Children for whom spectacles were prescribed—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme 258

(b) Otherwise 47

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme 258

(b) Otherwise 47

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Number of Defects.				
Received Operative Treatment.			Received other forms of Treatment at School.	Total number Treated.
Under the Authority's Scheme in Clinic or Hospital. (1)	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Total (3)		
98	22	120	247	367

Group IV.—Dental Defects.

(1) Number of children who were :

(a) Inspected by the Dental Surgeon :—

Routine Age Group	5	...	676	} 4053*
	6	...	355	
	7	...	606	
	8	...	513	
	9	...	534	
	10	...	442	
	11	...	186	
	12	...	127	
	13	...	88	
	14	...	26	
Specials	335
Total	4388

*Of this number approximately 1404 are re-inspections.

(b)	Found to require treatment	....	1610
(c)	Actually treated	....	1283
(d)	Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examination	....	474

(see note c)

(2)	Half-days devoted to	{ Inspection 70 Treatment 343 }	Total	413
(3)	Attendance made by children for Treatment	....	....	2958
(4)	Fillings	{ Permanent teeth 856 Temporary teeth 291 }	Total	1147
(5)	Extractions	{ Permanent teeth 278 Temporary teeth 920 }	Total	1198
(6)	Administration of general anaesthetics for extractions	....	....	214
(7)	Other operations	{ Permanent teeth 493 Temporary teeth 1061 }	Total	1554

(e) All cases entered under this head are also entered under head (c).

Group V.—Uncleanliness and verminous condition.

(i)	Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	....	11
(ii)	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	....	20709
(iii)	Number of individual children found unclean	....	344
(iv.)	Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	....	Nil
(v.)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :		
	(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	....	Nil
	(b) Under School Attendance Bye-laws	....	Nil

TABLE V.
TABLE OF PHYSICAL DEFECTS FOUND AMONG 800 BACKWARD CHILDREN.

Medical Examination showed that 531 or 66.4 per cent of these Children had some physical defect, probably accounting for their backwardness, the backwardness of the remainder being due to irregular attendance.

Defects.	Boys.	Girls.	Infants.		Total.	Percentages.
			Boys.	Girls.		
Nutrition	1	3			4	0.5
Teeth	12	9	1	2	24	3.05
Nose and Throat — Mouth Breathing	9	10			19	2.4
Tonsils } —	32	35	3	3	73	9.2
Adenoids } —						
Glands	5	17			24	3.05
Eyes and Vision	51	54	3	2	111	14.1
Ears and Hearing	39	55	2	3	101	12.7
Speech	14	3	2	1	20	2.5
Heart and Circulation	10	16	1	2	29	3.6
Lungs	2	4	3		9	1.1
Nervous System	10	8	3		21	2.5
Tuberculosis	2	4			6	0.7
Rickets	6	3	1	2	12	1.5
Deformities, Spinal Diseases, etc.	12	30	2		44	5.5
Infectious or Contagious Diseases		4			4	0.5
Other Disease or Defect	16	11	3		30	3.8
Total	221	266	24	20	531	66.4

TABLE VI.—Table Showing number of Children who attended the Inspection Clinic for Examination.

In 1911	....	....	612 Children
„ 1912	....	....	923 „
„ 1913	....	....	1240 „
„ 1914	....	....	1477 „
„ 1915	....	....	1926 „
„ 1916	....	....	2331 „
„ 1917	....	....	2256 „
„ 1918	....	....	1691 „
„ 1919	....	....	2323 „
„ 1920	....	....	3811 „
„ 1921	....	....	3502 „
„ 1922	....	....	2174 „
„ 1923	....	....	2346 „
„ 1924	....	....	1993 „
„ 1925	....	....	1832 „
„ 1926	....	....	2061 „
„ 1927	....	....	2493 „

They were sent by the following :—

Head Teacher	....	....	1224
School Medical Officer		....	108
School Nurse	....	....	551
Medical Practitioners	....	....	17
Parents' own initiative	....	....	447
Attendance Officers	....	....	143
Private Individuals	....	....	3
Total			2493

Condition requiring Examination.

Uncleanliness	....	....	Dental Diseases	....	....
Ringworm	....	....	Heart and Circulation	....
Impetigo	....	....	Lung (Non-Tubercular)	....
Ear Disease	....	....	Nervous System	....	....
Defective Vision	....		Deformities	....	....
Nose and Throat	....		Other Defects and Diseases		
Glands	....	....	Certificates of Fitness to		
Defective Speech	....		attend School, Trading		
			Certificates, &c.	....	....

Secondary Schools and Junior Technical School. 1927.

TABLE I.

Return of Medical Inspection 1st January to 31st December, 1927.

INSPECTED :—

School.	Examination.		Total.
	Complete.	Curtailed.	
Junior Technical(Boys)	67	2	69
Hele's (Boys)	177	113	290
Exeter (Boys)	98	76	174
Total!	342	191	533

TABLE II.

A. RETURN OF DEFECTS found in the course of Medical Inspection, 1927.

School.	Defect or Disease.	EXAMINATIONS.			
		Complete.		Curtailed.	
		No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
		Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Junior	Vision	1		1	
Technical	Ear Disease	3			
(Boys.)	Slight Tonsils		2		
Hele's (Boys.)	Vision	8		9	2
	Teeth	2			1
	Tonsils & Adenoids	2	8	2	2
	Slight Cervical Glands		3		
	Ear Disease	3	2		
	Defective Speech		2		
	Chorea	1	1		
	Heart Disease		1		
	Other Defects.	11	4	1	
Exeter (Boys.)	Heart Disease		1		
	Squint		2	1	
	Vision	5		3	
	Defective Hearing	1	1	1	
	Slight Cervical Glands		2		
	Other Defects	6	3		

TABLE II.—continued.

B. Number of *individual children* found at *Routine Medical Inspection* to require treatment.

School.	Group.	Number of Children.		Percentage of Children found to require treatment.
		Inspected.	Found to require treatment.	
Junior Technical (Boys.)	Complete Examination	67	4	5.9
	Curtailed Examination	2	1	5.
	Total	69	5	7.2
Hele's (Boys.)	Complete Examination	177	26	14.6
	Curtailed Examination	113	12	10.6
	Total	290	38	13.1
Exeter (Boys')	Complete Examination	98	11	11.2
	Curtailed Examination	76	5	6.5
	Total	174	16	9.1

TABLE III.

Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area in 1927.

Nil.

TABLE IV.

GROUP I.—Treatment of Minor Ailments, 1927.

No arrangements are made by the Local Education Authority for treatment.

GROUP II.—Defective Vision and Squint.

School.	Defect or Disease.	Number of Defects dealt with.		
		Submitted to re- fraction by private prac- titioner or at Hospital.	Other- wise.	Total.
Junior Technical (Boys.)	Errors of Refraction (in- cluding Squint)	—	—	—
	Other Defect or Disease of the Eye	—	—	—
	Total	—	—	—

Total number of Children for whom spectacles were prescribed and received spectacles—*Nil*.

Hele's (Boys.)	Errors of Refraction (in- cluding Squint)	3	10	13
	Other Defect or Disease of the Eye	—	—	—
	Total	3	10	13

Total number of Children for whom spectacles were prescribed and received spectacles, 13.

Exeter (Boys.)	Errors of Refraction (in- cluding Squint)	5	8	13
	Other Defect or Disease of the Eye	—	—	—
	Total	5	8	13

Total number of Children for whom spectacles were prescribed and received spectacles, 13.

GROUPS III., IV., and V.—*Nil*.